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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

VOL. 23 NO. 5 MAY 1986

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Feb. '86	Mar. '86
Labor Force	247,229	252,298
Employment	221,681	225,594
Unemployment	25,548	26,704
Rate (Raw)	10.3	10.6
Rate (S.A.)	8.8	9.2
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.81	$13.74
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.2	43.7
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	7.3	7.2
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.26	$12.24
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	42.3	42.1
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	327.5	326.0
Denver (Bimonthly)		355.7
Year Change (U.S.)	+3.2	+2.3

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

THE NATIONAL SCENE

In March, the number of unemployed nationwide was down 108,000 from February to 8.4 million. The civilian unemployment rate stood at 7.2 percent, down only slightly from the February rate of 7.3 percent, seasonally adjusted. The March 1985 adjusted rate was also 7.3 percent. Rates for adult men (6.2 percent) and women (6.6 percent) were about the same as the previous month and year. The average duration of unemployment in March was 14.4 weeks.

IN WYOMING

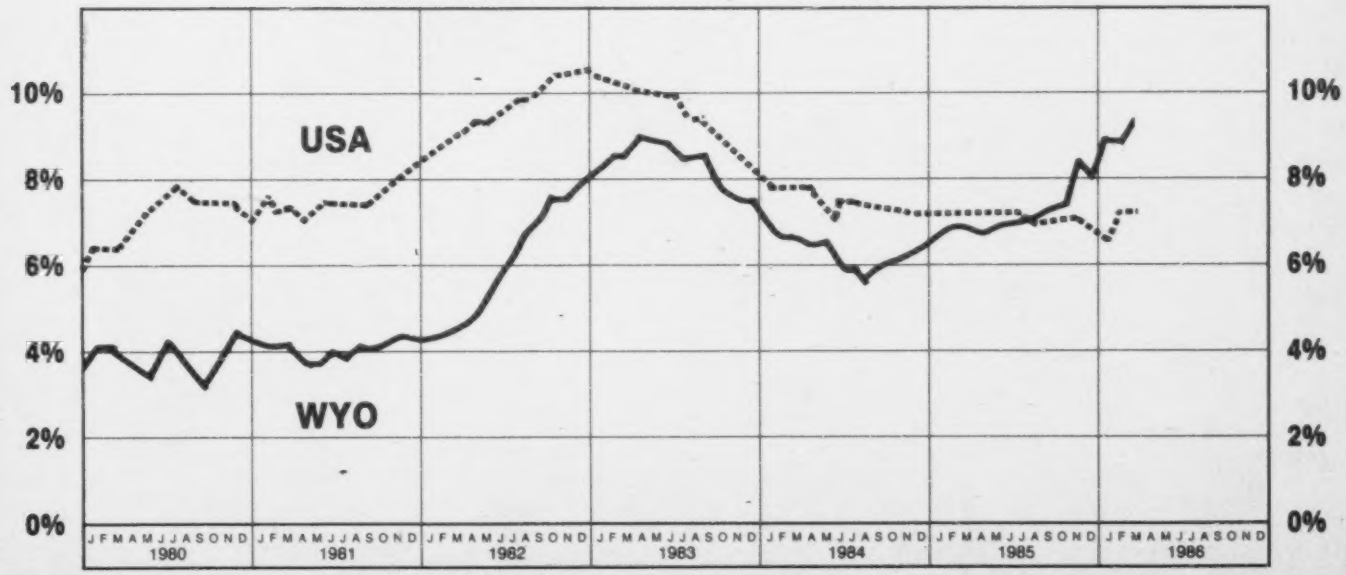
Unemployment in Wyoming continued to rise in March, 10.6 percent and 26,700 jobseekers, up from the 10.3 percent registered in January and February. Historically, unemployment begins its seasonal decline in March but this was not the case in 1986.

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March stood at 9.2 percent, two full percentage points above the U.S. rate of 7.2 percent, and compares to 8.8 percent in February and 6.8 percent in March 1985.

In January, as well as February, Wyoming's unemployment rate ranked it sixth highest

Continued on Page 2

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In Wyoming—Continued

in the nation. In February, Louisiana had the highest unadjusted rate of 13.2 percent and New Hampshire had the lowest at 3.8 percent.

Statewide, the number of jobseekers increased annually by 39 percent to approximately 26,700, a record high number of unemployed. Agency records indicate that there was an average of 10.7 applicants per job opening during the First Quarter 1986 in the state job service centers. This compares with 4.2 applicants per opening during the First Quarter 1985.

The statewide labor force stood at 252,300 in March, up 3.7 percent over-the-year. The employed labor force, however, was about at last year's level.

Industrial sectors hardest hit include oil and gas extraction and oil field services, retail trade, and transportation. The only noteworthy annual employment gains occurred in the services industry and government. The remaining industrial sectors were relatively stable.

COUNTY TRENDS

Percentage-wise, Sublette County continues to lead in annual labor force gains, followed closely by Lincoln County. Sweetwater County indicated the greatest annual worker gain, over 2,400, followed by Laramie and Lincoln counties, up 1,800 and 1,700 workers.

Sixteen of the state's 23 counties had double-digit unemployment rates in March. The highest rate was in Big Horn County, at 15.3 percent, followed by Uinta and Fremont counties at 14.3 and 14.0 percent. The Casper area, Natrona County, continued with the greatest number of unemployed with almost 4,200 jobseekers and a rate of 11.4 percent. Albany and Laramie counties, whose economies are buffered by large numbers of government employees, had the lowest unemployment rate of 7.0 and 7.6 percent. Sublette County also had a 7.6 unemployment rate. Only Albany County had a lower unemployment level than the U.S. unadjusted rate of 7.5 percent in March.

CES - A KEY INDICATOR

Each month the *Trends* includes data collected from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) Survey. The survey produces monthly and annual average estimates of employment and earnings information for the United States, Wyoming, Cheyenne and Casper.

Businesses can use Current Employment Statistics . . .

- To guide decisions on plant locations, sales and purchases.
- To construct escalation clauses for long-term supply or construction contracts that depend on the movement of average hourly earnings for a selected industry.
- To negotiate labor contracts based upon industry, hourly earnings or weekly hours series.
- To detect and plan for swings in the business cycle, using average weekly hours series.
- To draw comparisons between your business and the industry or economy as a whole.

You can learn more about the CES survey and the statistics it produces by contacting the Research and Analysis Section of the Wyoming Employment Security Commission.

ABOUT THE CPI

Each month the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) releases the Consumer Price Index (CPI). At one time the CPI for the most part was a tool used only by researchers and economists. However, in recent years nearly everyone is concerned with inflation. As a result, the CPI has become one of the most frequently used statistics among the thousands generated by the government. Giving indications of changes in prices over time, the CPI is used as an escalator in various contracts, leases and government entitlement programs. Not only does the CPI give an idea of the nation's economic well-being, it also gives individuals a chance to see if their wages are increasing as fast as overall prices.

The CPI measures the changes in prices of a constant "market basket" of goods and services over time. The base year for the CPI is 1967. In other words, the goods and services previously mentioned cost $100.00 in 1967. As of February, 1986, the same goods and services now cost $327.50.

Along with the index numbers, the BLS produces percent change figures, sometimes called inflation rates. This is the figure to be used when measuring the impact inflation has on a consumer's pocket book.

Recent months, February and March, have shown a drop in the CPI due to falling oil prices and lower food costs. Many analysts feel the annual change in the CPI for 1986 will be between one and two percent. This compares to the last three years which gave us an increase between three and four percent.

While this is good news for most consumers, states tied closely to agriculture and oil, like Wyoming, are suffering. The lower price of oil makes it unprofitable to drill new wells and existing wells operating at higher costs are forced to close. Less expensive food prices generally mean lower farm prices and a continuing high number of failing farms. The result is higher unemployment.

There are two national CPI's available. The CPI-W is for wage and clerical workers and covers the buying habits of 40 percent of the population. The CPI-U is for urban consumers and approximates the buying habits of 80 percent of the population. The CPI-U for the nation is the one most often referred to by the media.

Since Wyoming is not populated enough to get a BLS sponsored CPI, the state's Department of Administration and Fiscal

Control (DAFC) prepares a quarterly cost-of-living index along with annual inflation rates. The inflation rates are available for the state and five regions that make up the state, from DAFC's Division of Research and Statistics in Cheyenne.

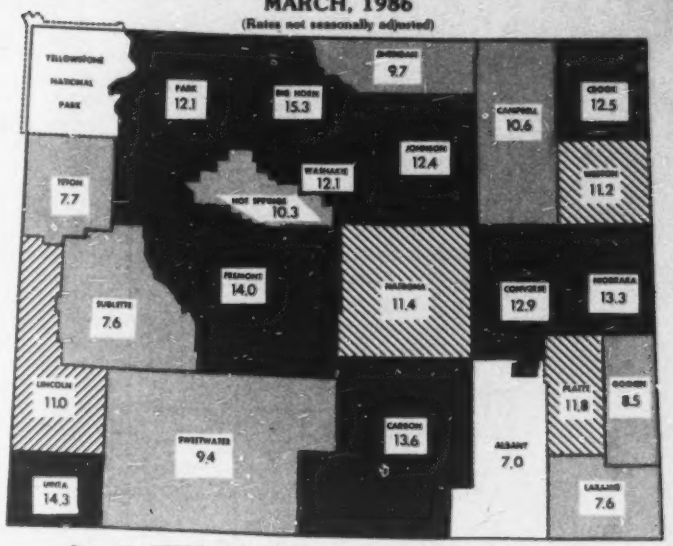
The table below lists the United States CPI-U annual rate of inflation from December to December, and also lists DAFC's annual rate of inflation for the state for the same period. The graph represents the CPI-U since 1967. The Trend Setters box on the front page lists the current month CPI-U.

ANNUAL AVERAGE RATE OF INFLATION

	DECEMBER TO DECEMBER UNITED STATES	WYOMING DAFC'S INFLATION
	CPI-U	RATE
1978-79	13.3%	13.6%
1979-80	12.4%	12.5%
1980-81	8.9%	7.0%
1981-82	3.9%	1.6%
1982-83	3.8%	1.4%
1983-84	4.0%	2.9%
1984-85	3.8%	1.8%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics and Wyoming's Department of Administration and Fiscal Control, Division of Research and Statistics.

WYOMING UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, BY COUNTY
MARCH, 1986
(Rates not seasonally adjusted)

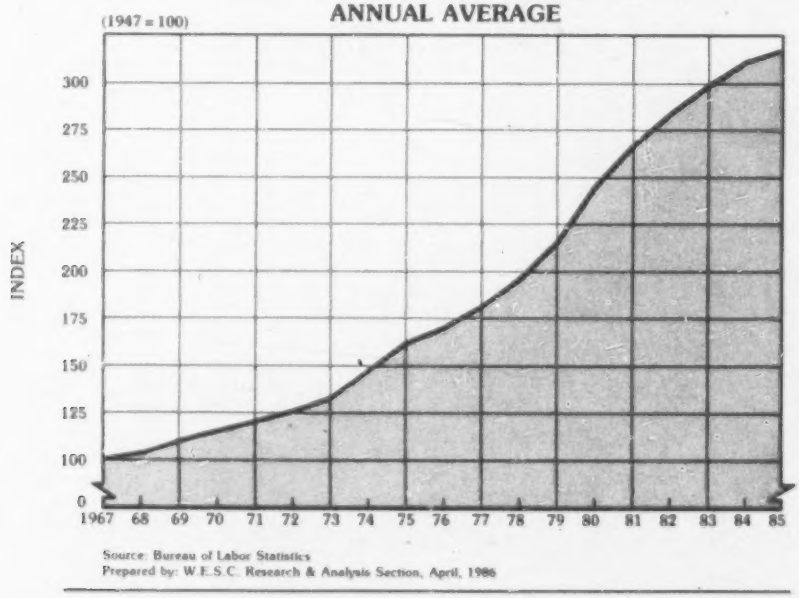


Prepared by: WESC Research and Analysis in cooperation with Bureau of Labor Statistics.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES: UNITED STATES .. 7.5%
WYOMING 10.6%

U.S. rate or lower
Above U.S. rate, Wyoming rate or lower
Above Wyoming rate, below 12.0 percent
Above 12.0 percent

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, ALL URBAN
ANNUAL AVERAGE



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
Prepared by: W.E.S.C. Research & Analysis Section, April, 1986

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTER-TAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
March 1986	326.0	307.8	357.0	271.9	206.3	309.6	425.8
Annual % Change	2.3	2.1	3.6	3.7	0.5	- 2.2	7.4

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	MAR 1986 [1]	FEB 1986 [1]	MAR 1985 [2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	252,298	247,229	243,337	2.1	3.7
Unemployment	26,704	25,548	19,181	4.5	39.2
Employed Labor Force	225,594	221,681	224,156	1.8	0.6
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	184,300	182,500	183,335	1.0	0.5
b. Agriculture[3]	7,928	7,409	8,074	7.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	10.6% 9.2%*	10.3% 8.8%*	7.9% 6.8%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	7.5% 7.2%*	7.8% 7.3%*	7.5% 7.3%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	4.5%	4.4%	3.4%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 600.44	$ 596.59	$ 570.72	0.6	5.2
Average Weekly Hours	43.7	43.2	41.0	1.1	6.6
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.74	$ 13.81	$ 13.92	- 0.5	- 1.3
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	42,000	37,607	31,171	11.7	34.7
a. Initial	4,448	4,831	3,420	- 7.9	30.1
Weeks Compensated	32,463	30,004	26,344	8.2	23.2
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 5,151,362	$ 4,723,686	$ 3,906,877	9.1	31.9
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 158.32	$ 157.14	$ 147.55	0.8	7.3
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	4,349	4,145	4,509	4.9	- 3.5
Non-Ag. Openings Received	2,220	2,118	3,173	4.8	- 30.0
Non-Ag. Placements	1,911	1,918	2,768	- 0.4	- 31.0
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 515.30	$ 518.60	$ 519.28	- 0.6	- 0.8
Average Weekly Hours	42.1	42.3	43.6	- 0.4	- 3.4
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.24	$ 12.26	$ 11.91	- 0.2	2.8
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	326.0	327.5	318.8	- 0.5	2.3
Producer Prices, All Commodities	300.3	304.7	308.6	- 1.4	- 2.7
Food and Beverage 1967 = 100	307.8	307.7	301.6	0.0	2.1

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	MAR 1986	FEB 1986	MAR 1985	%CHANGE FEB-MAR	%CHANGE MAR-MAR	MAR 1986	FEB 1986	MAR 1985	MAR 1986	FEB 1986	MAR 1985
Statewide	252,298	247,229	243,337	2.1	3.7	26,704	25,548	19,181	10.6	10.3	7.9
Statewide - Seasonally adjusted									9.2	8.8	6.8
Albany	15,862	15,698	15,543	1.0	2.1	1,108	1,174	769	7.0	7.5	4.9
Big Horn	4,781	4,558	4,842	4.9	- 1.3	731	651	526	15.3	14.3	10.9
Campbell	20,256	19,659	18,912	3.0	7.1	2,155	1,861	1,417	10.6	9.5	7.5
Carbon	8,397	8,253	8,594	1.7	- 2.3	1,139	1,051	827	13.6	12.7	9.6
Converse	6,440	6,401	6,440	0.6	0.0	828	810	639	12.9	12.7	9.9
Crook	2,868	2,768	2,806	3.6	2.2	359	310	231	12.5	11.2	8.2
Fremont	16,640	16,334	16,868	1.9	- 1.4	2,334	2,250	1,853	14.0	13.8	11.0
Goshen	5,768	5,653	5,889	2.0	- 2.1	492	577	430	8.5	10.2	7.3
Hot Springs	2,867	2,794	2,990	2.6	- 4.1	296	260	167	10.3	9.3	5.6
Johnson	3,244	3,190	3,389	1.7	- 4.3	402	405	224	12.4	12.7	6.6
Laramie	35,462	35,174	33,619	0.8	5.5	2,687	2,778	2,139	7.6	7.9	6.4
Lincoln	8,992	8,711	7,296	3.2	23.2	988	885	717	11.0	10.2	9.8
Natrona	36,696	35,992	36,469	2.0	0.6	4,180	3,912	2,895	11.4	10.9	7.9
Niobrara	1,555	1,567	1,650	- 0.8	- 5.8	207	217	220	13.3	13.9	13.3
Park	13,108	12,695	12,368	3.3	6.0	1,581	1,326	964	12.1	10.4	7.8
Platte	3,640	3,631	3,691	0.2	- 1.4	430	482	319	11.8	13.3	8.6
Sheridan	12,821	12,611	13,197	1.7	- 2.8	1,245	1,351	1,291	9.7	10.7	9.8
Sublette	3,574	3,384	2,730	5.6	30.9	272	227	185	7.6	6.7	6.8
Sweetwater	21,821	21,397	19,415	2.0	12.4	2,056	2,046	1,319	9.4	9.6	6.8
Teton	7,568	7,336	7,298	3.2	3.7	584	609	523	7.7	8.3	7.2
Uinta	11,677	11,312	10,908	3.2	7.0	1,664	1,412	919	14.3	12.5	8.4
Washakie	4,866	4,756	4,807	2.3	1.2	588	587	317	12.1	12.3	6.6
Weston	3,397	3,357	3,616	1.2	- 6.1	379	368	291	11.2	11.0	8.0
United States									7.5	7.8	7.5
United States - Seasonally adjusted									7.2	7.3	7.3

* The data contained in this table updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	MAR 1986[2]	FEB 1986[3]	MAR 1985	FEB 1986	MAR 1985
	Total	Total	Total	to MAR 1986	to MAR 1986
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	196.7	194.9	196.7	0.9	0.0
Manufacturing	7.9	7.6	7.5	3.9	5.3
Durable Goods	3.7	3.6	3.6	2.8	2.8
Nondurable Goods	4.2	4.0	3.9	5.0	7.7
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	188.8	187.3	189.2	0.8	- 0.2
Mining	23.9	24.5	24.8	- 2.4	- 3.6
Contract Construction	12.3	10.6	12.1	16.0	1.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.7	14.9	15.6	- 1.3	- 5.8
Railroad Transportation	2.9	2.9	3.1	0.0	- 6.5
Transportation except Railroads	5.4	5.5	5.8	- 1.8	- 6.9
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.4	6.4	6.7	0.0	- 4.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	42.7	42.7	44.8	0.0	- 4.7
Wholesale Trade	9.3	9.3	9.3	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	33.4	33.4	35.4	0.0	- 5.6
Food Stores	4.8	4.9	5.3	- 2.0	- 9.4
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.7	5.7	5.9	0.0	- 3.4
Eating & Drinking Places	12.0	11.5	12.7	4.3	- 5.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.8	7.9	8.0	- 1.3	- 2.5
Services	33.0	33.1	31.1	- 0.3	6.1
Personal Services	2.1	2.0	1.9	5.0	10.5
Medical & Other Health Services	6.7	6.7	6.1	0.0	9.8
Government	54.4	53.6	52.8	1.5	3.0
Federal Government	7.0	7.2	6.8	- 2.8	2.9
State & Local Government	47.4	46.4	46.0	2.2	3.0
State Government	13.9	13.7	13.3	1.5	4.5
Local Government	33.5	32.7	32.7	2.4	2.4

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	MAR 1986[2]	FEB 1986[3]	MAR 1985	FEB 1986	MAR 1985
	Total	Total	Total	to MAR 1986	to MAR 1986
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	31.3	31.2	32.5	0.3	- 3.7
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.9	29.8	31.2	0.3	- 4.2
Mining	4.2	4.2	4.5	0.0	- 6.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	4.0	3.9	4.1	2.6	- 2.4
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.3	0.4	- 33.3	- 50.0
Contract Construction	1.6	1.7	1.6	- 5.9	0.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.9	2.0	2.1	- 5.0	- 9.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	8.9	8.9	9.5	0.0	- 6.3
Wholesale Trade	3.1	3.1	3.3	0.0	- 6.1
Retail Trade	5.8	5.9	6.2	- 1.7	- 6.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.5	1.5	1.7	0.0	- 11.8
Services	5.5	5.5	5.6	0.0	- 1.8
Government	6.3	6.0	6.2	5.0	1.6
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	5.6	5.3	5.5	5.7	1.8
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.0	29.9	29.4	0.3	2.0
Manufacturing	1.2	1.1	1.1	9.1	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.0	28.8	28.2	0.7	2.8
Contract Construction	1.5	1.3	1.3	15.4	15.4
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.5	3.4	3.1	2.9	12.9
Wholesale & Retail Trade	6.5	6.5	6.9	0.0	- 5.8
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	- 12.5
Retail Trade	5.8	5.8	6.1	0.0	- 4.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Services & Miscellaneous	5.2	5.3	4.9	- 1.9	6.1
Government	10.4	10.4	10.2	0.0	2.0
Federal Government	2.6	2.7	2.5	- 3.7	4.0
State & Local Government	7.8	7.8	7.7	0.0	1.3

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag. establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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